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Wainwright Wins Starkey Service Award

Aug. 22, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— George Wainwright was named the 2014 recipient of the Max L. Starkey Service Award, which recognizes outstanding service to the Illinois Wesleyan University community by a member of the University staff. President Richard F. Wilson made the announcement Aug. 22 at the annual Faculty-Staff Breakfast, a traditional beginning to the academic year.

The Starkey Award, established in 2001, is presented to a member of the University staff nominated by his or her peers “whose loyalty, enthusiasm and outstanding contribution in one’s work and assistance to others has provided an invaluable service” to Illinois Wesleyan. The award is named in honor of Max Starkey, a 1957 graduate who was the University comptroller from 1957 to 1996.

A 37-year employee of the University, Wainwright is manager of maintenance services at Illinois Wesleyan. In this position, Wainwright handles problems large and small concerning all of the physical structures across campus and other properties owned by the University. One nominator noted Wainwright’s “institutional knowledge of campus physical features is second to none, and this is well matched to his technical knowledge of how just about every single thing on campus functions.”

Until recently when emergency system procedures were changed, Wainwright was the first person called during off-hour maintenance emergencies, ranging from a water pipe break at the president’s home to changing a faulty lock in a residence hall. Another nominator noted Wainwright is deserving of the Starkey Award because his exemplary knowledge of electrical, plumbing and carpentry issues is delivered with “contagious kindness, optimism in the face of adversity and willingness to help anyone with any concern.”

The Starkey Award recipient is selected by a committee of former Illinois Wesleyan staff and faculty, and Dana Starkey ’94 and Tina Starkey Swingler ’97 representing the Starkey family.



George Wainwright